

MULTIMEDIA



UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

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MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 3, 2015/2016

BCT1024 – CRITICAL THINKING AND APPLICATION IN MANAGEMENT

(All sections / Groups)

30th MAY 2016
2.30 p.m. – 4.30 p.m.
(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENTS:

1. This question paper consists of **FOUR** parts and **12** pages (excluding the cover page).
 - **Part A:** Multiple choice questions (30 marks)
 - **Part B:** Argumentative Essay (20 marks)
 - **Part C:** Analytical questions (20 marks)
 - **Part D:** Short Essay (30 marks)
2. Answer ALL questions.
3. The total mark for this paper is 100 marks. This final examination will contribute 50% toward your grade in this course.

PART A: 30 marks

There are 30 questions in this section. Answer ALL questions.

For questions 1 -10, read each item carefully and indicate if it is TRUE or FALSE. Mark your answers on the multiple choice answer sheet.

1. Stereotypes are generalizations about a group of people in which identical characteristics are assigned to all or virtually all members of the group, often without regard to whether such attributions are accurate.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

2. The following sentence is a statement: "Marijuana should be legalized."
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

3. To check if an argument meets the critical thinking standard of 'logic', the following question should be asked: "Is there another way to look at this issue?"
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

4. The following sentence is an argument: "Since the world of tomorrow will be run by the children of today, it is vital that we encourage young people to be concerned about the future and instill in them the idea that they can help shape that future according to their own goals and aspirations." (Howard Ozmon and Samuel Craver, *Philosophical Foundations of Education*)
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

Continued...

5. No inductive argument provides logically conclusive support for its conclusion.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

6. "How many times have I told you not to yell inside the house?" This is an example of begging the question.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

7. "The burglar threatened the student with the knife."
This is an example of syntactical ambiguity.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

8. In the appeal to ignorance fallacy, the arguer falsely accuses another arguer of being ignorant.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

9. A spurious correlation is an idea that we take for granted; one that does not need to be proven.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

10. During a brainstorming session, it is encouraged to get the group to debate over the quality of the idea forwarded.
 - a. TRUE
 - b. FALSE

Continued...

For questions 11-30, read each items carefully and indicate the most appropriate response on the multiple-choice answer sheet.

11. A course in critical thinking can improve students' ability to develop all the following, except:

- a. become a positive thinker.
- b. understand course material.
- c. critically evaluate course materials.
- d. argue effectively for their own views on course topics.

12. The following is an example of _____.

"This new salary scheme benefits me; therefore it's good."

- a. sociocentric thinking
- b. ego-centric thinking
- c. conformism
- d. wishful thinking.

13. *Although it is high time to deal with agriculture's contribution to water pollution, the damage is very uneven in scope and severity; it tends to occur where farming is extensive and fresh water resources are vulnerable. Thus, blanket regulations would be unwise.* (David E. Ervin, "Shaping a Smarter Environmental Policy for Farming").

The above passage is a/an:

- a. argument; conclusion: Blanket regulations would be unwise.
- b. argument; conclusion: It tends to occur where farming is extensive and fresh water resources are vulnerable.
- c. nonargument; description.
- d. nonargument; explanation.

14. The following are the headlines from the 'Business & Money' section of the TIME magazine online. By looking at the headlines, determine which of the following is an argumentative discussion?

- a. Simple secrets to America's most loved companies
- b. Most men think it's ok to check texts in meetings. Most women don't.
- c. Former CEO concedes mistakes in Nokia's downturn.
- d. Why being blunt at work is a virtue

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15. Medical Student: "No one objects to a doctor looking up a difficult case in medical books. Why, then, shouldn't students taking a difficult examination be permitted to use their textbooks?"

Which of the following is true about the above argument?

- a. Conclusion: medical students should not be permitted to use textbook while taking a difficult examination
 - b. Conclusion: medical students should be permitted to use textbook while taking a difficult examination
 - c. Conclusion: doctors should not be permitted to refer to a book while looking up a difficult case
 - d. Conclusion: doctors should be permitted to refer to a book while looking up a difficult case
16. An argument in which the conclusion is claimed to follow necessarily from the premises is _____
- a. a valid argument
 - b. a predictive argument
 - c. a deductive argument
 - d. an inductive argument
17. If Wendy got an "A" in her Anatomy and Physiology class, then her boyfriend took her out to celebrate. Her boyfriend did take her out to celebrate. Therefore, Wendy did get an "A" in her Anatomy and Physiology class. This argument is
- a. deductive, valid
 - b. deductive, invalid
 - c. inductive, strong
 - d. inductive, weak
18. It has never snowed in Jakarta in the last 100 years. Therefore, it is not going to snow in Jakarta this year. This argument is
- a. deductive, valid
 - b. deductive, invalid
 - c. inductive, strong
 - d. inductive, weak

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19. The argument "If I want to improve my thinking skills, I better study critical thinking; I do want to improve my thinking skills; therefore, I better study critical thinking" is an example of _____
- an analogical argument.
 - a chain argument.
 - a hypothetical syllogism.
 - a categorical syllogism.
20. The statement "Jane told her mother she needed to lose ten pounds" is primarily
- vague
 - ambiguous
 - overgeneral
 - euphemistic
21. "*Alcohol abuser*" means someone who consumes on average four or more alcoholic drinks a day." This is an example of a:
- stipulative definition
 - persuasive definition
 - lexical definition
 - precising definition
22. The fallacy of _____ occurs when an arguer attempts to justify a wrongful act by claiming that some other act is just as bad or worse.
- Ad populum appeal to fear
 - Ad populum appeal to shame
 - Tu quoque
 - two wrongs make a right
23. No one has ever proven that Batman was a better superhero than Spiderman, so obviously Spiderman was the best.
This is an example of a/an:
- Post hoc fallacy
 - Circular argument
 - false dilemma
 - Ad populum appeal to ignorance

Continued...

24. We are all going to submit a letter to the senior manager to complain about the new work schedule that was implemented this month. Since you are one of the members of our team, we are counting on you to add signature to the letter. After all we must all support each other during times like this, mustn't we?

This is an example of a/an:

- a. Bandwagon fallacy
- b. Slippery slope fallacy
- c. Ad populum appeal to spite
- d. Ad populum appeal to vanity

25. You've no doubt heard the argument that today's music causes teens to act out violently, but much of today's music is upbeat and sends a positive message. Who could accuse Justine Bieber or Taylor Swift of inciting violence? They have won many awards. It is proof that today's music is quite excellent.

This is an example of a/an:

- a. Ad Hominem abusive
- b. False Dilemma
- c. Red Herring
- d. Appeal to tradition

26. Hassan is reading an editorial in the newspaper. The writer argues that Malaysians and Singaporeans are gradually becoming more and more similar in their political and religious views. "Is that true?" wonders Hassan. "What proof does he have?" Hassan reads the editorial again to try to find out why the author believes that conclusion to be true. Which items below describes this situation?

- a. Hassan has just used an ad hominem circumstantial fallacy to question the writer's credibility.
- b. The editorial writer has just used an analogy.
- c. Hassan has used two rhetorical questions.
- d. Hassan is engaging in reconstruction.

Continued...

27. In problem solving, the shift perspective technique involves _____

- a. asking the questions *Who, What, Why, Where, When* and *How* to analyze a problem.
- b. looking at the problem from another person's point of view to generate ideas.
- c. seeking ways in which animals or plants have solved similar or analogous problems.
- d. applying analogy and metaphor to make the strange become familiar.

Questions 28 and 29 are based on the following passage.

Four people are having a discussion about the Medium Rail Train (MRT) Project

- Mr Rossi: For sure many taxis operator in the City will get angry about this project because people will choose MRT over taxi in future.
- Mr Rowdy: My gut -feeling says that this MRT Project will be a big disaster.
- Mr Roland: This project might work if we provide efficient bus shuttle service.
- Mr Randy: Instead of building ground station and in process demolishing many heritage buildings, maybe we can build more underground stations.

28. Based on the Six Thinking Hats, Mr Rowdy is using _____

- a. Black hat thining
- b. Yellow hat thinking
- c. Green hat thinking
- d. Red hat thinking

29. Based on the Six Thinking Hats, who is using white hat thinking?

- a. Mr Rossi
- b. Mr Roland
- c. Mr Randy
- d. Nobody is using white hat thinking.

Continued...

Question 30 is based on the following picture:



30. The above advertisement by WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) carries the message "*Stop climate change before it changes you*".

What advertising ploy is used by the above advertisement to influence readers?

- a. Anxiety ads
- b. Humor
- c. Weasel words
- d. Feel-good ads

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PART B: ARGUMENTATIVE ESSAY (20 marks)

Read the following newspaper article and answer the question that follows:

Teacher puts ad in paper to say sorry for caning pupil

Friday, 11th March 2016

A tuition teacher from Johor Baru, placed an apology notice in the *China Press* for three days to say sorry for punishing a Year One pupil, Chinese dailies reported. In the notice, the teacher known as Miss Loh apologised to the student and her mother for caning the girl, which left seven welts on her. Miss Loh also said that she would bear the medical cost if there was any proven future injury suffered by the child caused by the caning. The notice caused a stir, especially among those in the education sector, after it was published on Tuesday. The reaction was mixed, with some slamming the teacher for caning the girl and others criticising the child's parents. When contacted, the teacher said she had reached an agreement with the student's family to settle the case by placing the notice, and declined to comment further.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2016/03/11/teacher-puts-ad-in-paper-to-say-sorry-for-caning-pupil/>

Question:

What is your stand on the above issue? Do you think the teacher was wrong and the parents of the child did the right thing to demand public apology? Or, do you think the parents were unreasonable in the demands and the case should be settled in a different manner?

Write a brief argumentative essay to state your stand regarding the issue.

Your argument must contain the following "parts". Label each part with the code indicated below. (That is, after the conclusion, write 'C'; after your anecdote, write "ANE"; etc.)

Include each of the following in your argument:

<u>Part of the argument</u>	<u>label</u>	<u>marks</u>
• Introductory sentence/background information	[Intro]	2 marks
• Conclusion/Main claim	[C]	2 marks
• Two PREMISES	[P1 and P2]	4 marks each (total 8)
• An ANECDOTE to support P1	[ANE]	4 marks
• A supporting argument which contains a LEADING QUESTION to support P2	[LQ]	4 marks

[20 marks]

Continued...

PART C: ANALYTICAL QUESTIONS (20 marks)

Read the following passage and answer the questions:

PETALING JAYA, MALAYSIA: At least a fifth of Malaysia's mammal species, including the Sumatran serow (a species of goat-antelope), dugong (a marine mammal) and the Malayan tiger, face extinction, making the country one of the most dangerous for endangered animals.

Data from the World Bank showed that 70 of Malaysia's 336 mammal species were threatened as of 2014, the seventh highest in the world in this category. Some of Malaysia's dying mammals include the Sumatran serow (a type of goat-antelope), Sumatran rhino, dugong (a type of marine mammal), and the Malayan tiger, with many numbering only in the hundreds. In South-East Asia, Malaysia is second only to Indonesia, which has 184 endangered mammal species, making it the number one in the world.

Although the World Bank does not say why, it is presumed that many mammals worldwide are dying out due to human activities such as logging, over-development, wildlife trafficking and poaching.

When contacted, local green group such as TRAFFIC, an organization involved in wild animal conservation awareness, said they were not surprised by the data. Elizabeth John, an activist with TRAFFIC said the South East Asia region was well known for its biodiversity. "Unfortunately, this makes the region a magnet for those wanting to plunder such resources," said the senior communications officer.

She warned that other kinds of wildlife – birds, fish and plants – were also at risk. Once these were lost, restoring them was not only expensive but almost impossible. "It just makes more sense to invest in protection and fighting threats," she said.

Wildlife Conservation Society Malaysia director Dr Melvin Gumal said the data confirmed what biologists were seeing every day. "We must reverse this trend for if we don't, our collective legacy will be the witnessing and documenting of the loss of our wildlife species," he said.

Malaysian Nature Society president Henry Goh said stronger laws are needed against wildlife crime and more enforcement. However, he said it was not just up to governments to solve the problem but the public and businesses as well. "Everyone must do their part," he said.

It was reported that nearly 100 live tigers and tiger parts were seized by authorities between 2000 and 2012. It is a huge number as there may be only between 250 and 340 tigers left in Malaysia's wild.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2015/04/14/malaysian-mammals-face-extinction-world-bank-fifth-of-species-threatened/>

Continued...

Questions

1. Identify the **implicit assumption** underlying the comments made by Mr. Henry Goh.
(2 marks)
2. Applying the DAID framework, formulate a **problem statement**, identifying the gap which exists in the issue above.
(3 marks)
3. If you were to conduct an analysis of the above problem, which of the questions in Kepner-Tregoe model would you consider the **MOST IMPORTANT** to ask Ms. Elizabeth John? Explain why you would choose that particular question.
(4 marks)
4. Describe how you would use the SCAMPER technique to generate solutions to the above problem. Identify **THREE** possible solutions from this technique.
(6 marks)
5. Analyse the advantages and disadvantages of the identified solutions above.
(5 marks)

[20 marks]**Continued...**

PART D: SHORT ESSAY (30 marks).

Answer both questions.

1. You are doing an online research on the best and safest way to lose weight. You have identified several websites as source of information. As a critical thinker, explain the criteria you would use to evaluate the sources.

(15 marks)

2. Contrast five (5) key intellectual traits of critical thinkers with the traits of uncritical thinkers.

(15 marks)

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